GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5075
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2008
DEATH OF PRISONERS IN JAIL
Athawale Shri Ramdas

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of prisoners died in various jails during each of the last three years, till date, jail-wise, gender-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has conducted/proposed to conduct any inquiry on the said deaths in the jails; and

(c) if so, the details and outcome thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS(DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a): The information relating to death of prisoners is not maintained jail-wise.However, as per the data compiled by the National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB), the total number of prisoners who died in various jails in the country during 2004 to 2006 are as under:

Year	Male prisoner	Female prisoner	Total
2004	1144	25	1169
2005	1341	46	1387
2006	1369	55	1424

The details of information State-wise, gender-wise and year-wise may be seen at Annexure-I, II and III.

(b) & (c): "Prisons" is a state subject under List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution and Prison Administration is the responsibility of the respective State Governments. However the Model Prison Manual circulated to all State Governments prescribes various measures such as keeping the prisoners under safe and humane conditions, providing medical facilities etc. In case of death of any prisoner, the postmortem is required to be conducted immediately.A full report on the circumstances of death of prisoner is required to be submitted and suitable action against the guilty officials is to be taken as per law.

The National Human Rights Commission have also issued an advisory to all the State Governments directing that the concerned District Magistrates and Superintendent of Police should be instructed to report to the Secretary General of the Commission about such incidents within twenty four hours of the occurrence or of these officers having come to know about such incidents. Failure to report promptly would give rise to the presumption that there was an attempt to suppress the incident.